



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Two Serial Armed Robbers who Targeted Northwest D.C. Sentenced to 120 and 84 Months of Incarceration**

WASHINGTON - Jovan Johnson, 18, and Dimitri Carswell, 17, were sentenced on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, to 120 months and 84 months incarceration, respectively, by Superior Court Judge Robert I. Richter for their roles in six brazen armed robberies and attempted robberies that they committed in the District of Columbia on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2008, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced. Five of the six robberies to which the defendants admitted guilt were committed in northwest Washington. Following their last armed robbery on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the 3800 block of Calvert Street, NW, the defendants led police on a high-speed chase through the District in a carjacked vehicle before they crashed the vehicle at the corners of New York Avenue and North Capitol Street, NE.

Johnson and Carswell pled guilty on January 16, 2009. Johnson pled guilty to two counts of Armed Robbery, and Carswell pled guilty to one count of Armed Robbery, one count of Attempted Robbery, one count of Felony Fleeing and Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer, and one count of Destruction of Property. Judge Richter sentenced Johnson to a mandatory-minimum term of 60 months in prison on each count of Armed Robbery, to run consecutively, and Carswell to 48 months in prison on the Armed Robbery, 16 months for Attempted Robbery, 16 months for Fleeing and Eluding a Law Enforcement Officer, and 4 months for the Destruction of property, which he also ordered to run consecutively.

According to the Statement of Offense to which the defendants pled guilty, the defendants committed six robberies, three on November 8<sup>th</sup> and three on November 10<sup>th</sup>. On November 8, 2008, the defendants drove a car that had been carjacked in Prince George's County, Maryland, earlier in the day in the District of Columbia, and at approximately 8:00 p.m., the defendants used the car to rob a female victim at gunpoint of her purse and property in the 3500 block of 39<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. At approximately 8:20 p.m. the defendants then drove the same car into the 4100 block of Tunlaw Street, NW, and unsuccessfully attempted to take the vehicle of a male victim, again at gunpoint. At 10:30 p.m. the same evening, again using the same car, the defendants robbed another female victim at gunpoint of her purse and property in the 700 block of 6<sup>th</sup> Street, NE.

On November 10, 2008, at approximately 10:45 a.m., the defendants drove the same stolen car to the 3700 block of Kanawha Street, NW, and robbed an elderly female of her purse and property. At 10:50 a.m., the defendants again drove the same car to the 4400 block of Yuma Street, NW, and robbed another woman at gunpoint of her purse and property. At approximately 11:30 a.m., the defendants drove the same car to the 3800 block of Calvert Street, NW, and robbed another female at gunpoint of her purse and property. Within 15 minutes of the last robbery, officers of the Metropolitan Police Department located the defendants and the vehicle and attempted to stop the car. The driver, Carswell, drove the vehicle recklessly and at a high rate of speed throughout the city, and he failed to stop at numerous stop signs while weaving in and out of traffic. Carswell crashed the car at New York Avenue and North Capitol Streets, NE, totaling the car and causing significant traffic delays. The defendants were caught attempting to flee the scene and a silver revolver used in the robberies was also recovered.

The defendants presently face additional charges in Maryland on other charges, including armed robbery and carjacking charges that stem from crimes they are also alleged to have committed in Prince George's County on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detectives Kenneth Rosenborg, Kathy Jackson, John Paprecka, Keith Tabron, and MPD Officers Tommy Barnes, Vincent Bryant, Vernon Dallas, Eric Hampton, Willie Lawrence, Dwayne Roberts, and Paraminder Singh. He also thanked Bladensburg Police Department Sergeant James Flynn and Assistant State's Attorney for Prince George's County Scott Harrington for their cooperation in this investigation. He also praised the work of Legal Assistant Kalisha Johnson-Clark and Paralegal Supervisor Wanda Trice. Mr. Taylor also thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Tejpal S. Chawla, who handled these cases.

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